Bill No. HB 1009

(2017)

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION ADOPTED (Y/N) ADOPTED AS AMENDED (Y/N) ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION (Y/N) FAILED TO ADOPT (Y/N) WITHDRAWN (Y/N) OTHER

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee

Representative Raschein offered the following:

Amendment

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Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert: Section 1. Subsection (9) is added to section 626.9891, Florida Statutes, to read:

626.9891 Insurer anti-fraud investigative units; reporting requirements; penalties for noncompliance.—

- (9) (a) The information submitted to the department pursuant to paragraphs (3) (d), (e), and (f) and paragraphs

 (5) (d), (e), (f), (g), and (k) is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s.

 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.
- (b) This paragraph is subject to the Open Government

 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand

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 repealed on October 2, 2022, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

(c) This exemption applies to records held before, on, or after the effective date of this exemption.

Section 2. (a) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity to make exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Art I. of the State Constitution the description of an insurer's anti-fraud education and training, the description of an insurer's anti-fraud investigative unit, and an insurer's rationale for the level of staffing and resources it provides to the anti-fraud investigative unit as required in paragraphs (3)(d),(e), and (f) and filed with the Division of the Investigative and Forensic Services pursuant to subsection (2) and the data collected and reported to the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services pursuant to paragraphs (5)(d),(e),(f),(g), and (k).

(b) The description of an insurer's anti-fraud education and training that is designed to assist in identifying and evaluating instances of suspected fraudulent insurance acts, the description of an insurer's anti-fraud investigative unit, and an insurer's rationale for the level of staffing and resources it provides to the anti-fraud investigative unit will allow the department to ensure that insurers have adequate procedures in place to properly detect, investigate, and report potential insurance fraud. The public disclosure of this information would

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allow criminal elements to use such information to identify
fraud prevention or detection strategies employed by insurers
and use this information to commit insurance fraud. The
Legislature further finds that disclosure of this information
would allow persons suspected of fraud to be alerted to a
potential or ongoing investigation and alter behavior to impede
an investigation. To ensure the integrity of such records
already in the possession of the department, this exemption is
made retroactive in its application.
     (c) The data submitted pursuant to paragraphs
(5)(d),(e),(f),(g), and (k) allow the department to track and
assess trends in insurance fraud in this state. Such information
includes the number of claims referred to the anti-fraud
investigative unit, the number of matters referred to the anti-
fraud investigative unit that were not claim related, the number
of claims investigated or accepted by the anti-fraud
investigative unit, the number of other insurance fraud matters
investigated or accepted by the anti-fraud investigative unit
that were not claim related, and the estimated dollar amount or
range of damages on cases referred to the Division of
Investigative and Forensic Services or other agencies. The
public disclosure of this information could injure a business in
the marketplace by providing its competitors with detailed
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insights into the claim investigation processes and statistics

of these companies, thereby diminishing the advantage that the

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business maintains over competitors that do not possess such information. Without this exemption, insurers might refrain from providing accurate and unbiased data, thus impairing the department's ability to track and assess insurance fraud in this state. This data will allow insurance fraud investigators to better track, predict, and curb fraud trends in this state by providing access to data gathered by insurers' anti-fraud investigative units. Information regarding the amount of insurance fraud experienced, referred, and addressed internally will be valuable material for the department and will better enable law enforcement agencies to assist state prosecutors in the successful prosecution of fraudulent behavior.

Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that HB 1007 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

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